

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EA-06 FRB-01

IO-10 NEA-09 OPIC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 AGR-05 /111 W

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R 081911Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7087

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, EEC

SUBJECT: ANTI-EC FORCES CLOSE RANKS

REF: (A) LONDON 58; (B) LONDON 219; (C) LONDON 15228

SUMMARY - ANTI-EC ORGANIZATIONS EMBRACING A WIDE DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEWS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO FIGHT THE

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COMING REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. THE LEADERSHIP OF THEIR NEW

COORDINATING ORGANIZATION IS PREDOMINANTLY RIGHT-WING, BUT LEFT-WING TRADE UNION LEADERS, INCLUDING THE POWERFUL JACK JONES, WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN DIRECTING ITS ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY

1. ANTI-MARKET ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE BREADTH OF BRITAIN'S POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE JOINED FORCES TO FIGHT THE COMING REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ANTI-COMMON MARKET LEAGUE, THE COMMON MARKET SAFEGUARDS CAMPAIGN, THE GET BRITAIN OUT CAMPAIGN, BRITISH BUSINESS FOR WORLD MARKETS, AND OTHER SIMILAR GROUPS GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WESTMINSTER YESTERDAY TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF A NEW UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION, THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN, UNDER WHOSE AEGIS THEY WILL COORDINATE THEIR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

2. NEIL MARTEN, CONSERVATIVE MP WHO DEFIED TED HEATH ON THE MARKET ISSUE TO THE BITTER END, HAS BEEN SELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. THE VICE-CHAIRMAN ARE DOUGLAS JAY, A RIGHT-WING LABOR MP AND FORMER MINISTER, AND CHRISTOPHER FRERE-SMITH, A MAVERICK LIBERAL WHO HAS MADE A CAREER OF FIGHTING AND LOSING BY-ELECTIONS ON AN ANTI-MARKET PLATFORM. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INCLUDES FOUR LEFT-WING TRADE UNION LEADERS: JACK JONES, CLIVE JENKINS, RICHARD BRIGINSHAW, AND BOB WRIGHT.

3. AT YESTERDAY'S CONFERENCE, SPOKESMEN FOR THE NEW ORGANIZATION CRITICIZED EC COMMISSIONER SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES FOR HIS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO CAMPAIGN IN BRITAIN ON BEHALF OF CONTINUED EC MEMBERSHIP (REF A), AND FCO MINISTER ROY HATTERSLEY FOR HIS RECENT SPEECH ON SOVEREIGNTY AND THE EC AT BRISTOL (REF B). THEY ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT THEY EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE EQUAL RADIO AND TV TIME FOR PRO- AND ANTI-MARKETEERS. THEY ALSO WANT LIMITS IMPOSED ON WHAT CAN BE SPENT BY BOTH SIDES DURING THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN.

4. COMMENT: PRO-MARKET FORCES HAVE LONG ENJOYED BETTER ORGANIZATION AND FUNDING THAN THE ANTI-MARKET FORCES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN -- AS A COUNTERPART TO THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT -- IS AN EFFORT TO

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REDRESS THE BALANCE IN TIME FOR THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN.
MANY LEFT-WING ANTI-MARKETEERS ARE ACUTELY UNHAPPY AT
THE PROSPECT OF CAMPAIGNING IN TANDEM WITH ULTRA-CONSER-
VATIVES. SUCH IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AS WELL AS PER-
SONALITY FRICTIONS HAVE DELAYED THE CREATION OF ANY
ANTI-EC UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION (JENKINS EXPECTED ONE TO
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BE LAUNCHED IN LATE NOVEMBER)(REF C), AND ARE LIKELY TO HAMPER ITS SMOOTH FUNCTIONING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

5. FOR THE PRO-MARKETEERS (AND FOR PRIME MINISTER WILSON), THE MOST DISAPPOINTING ASPECT OF YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS WAS THE AGREEMENT OF JACK JONES TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. ALTHOUGH JONES HAS BEEN A LEADING ANTI-MARKETEER FOR MANY YEARS, HE HAS BEEN DISCREETLY SILENT ON THE ISSUE SINCE LABOR RETURNED TO OFFICE. HE IS THE SINGLE MOST INFLUENTIAL TRADE UNION LEADER IN BRITAIN AND A POWERFUL ALLY OF WILSON'S. (JONES' SUPPORT ENABLED WILSON TO STEER HIS CRITICAL COMPROMISE ON EC MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE OF 1972.) ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH TO EXPECT JONES TO CHANGE SIDES ON THE EC ISSUE, PRO-MARKETEERS WERE GROWING HOPEFUL THAT HE MIGHT AT LEAST STAY NEUTRAL. SINCE YESTERDAY, THOSE HOPES APPEAR ILL-FOUNDED. (IT IS INTERESTING, HOWEVER, THAT FRERE-SMITH, IN A CONVERSATION WITH LABATT TODAY, BETRAYED A NAGGING DOUBT THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY JONES MIGHT STILL RESPOND TO A WILSON PLEA FOR SUPPORT IN THE BROADER INTERESTS OF PARTY UNITY.)

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